

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 10-17 were pending. Claim 1 and withdrawn claims 2-4 and 6-9 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

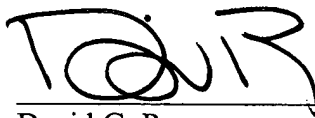
Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Beisswenger et al. (U.S. 6,070,903). Claim 1 has been canceled; therefore the merits of the Examiner's rejection shall not be discussed in this paper.

The Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 10-17.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Please charge any unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



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